

## Radiology

# MRI - body non-contrast

You have been advised by your doctor to have an MRI scan. This leaflet will explain what the examination involves.

It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries or concerns, please call the telephone number on your appointment letter. If you feel unhappy with any part of your care, please ask to speak to the superintendent radiographer.

**Please read this leaflet carefully to make sure you successfully prepare for the examination.**

- Please contact the X-ray department if your weight is equal to or more than 133 Kg (21 stone) – you may require an alternative examination.
- If you have to bring children requiring supervision with you for your MRI scan appointment, please make sure that they have someone to look after them whilst you are having your scan. Staff within the department are unable to help with the supervision of young children. In these instances, you may be asked to rebook your appointment to a time more suitable for you to have childcare arrangements in place.

### Points to remember

- Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you to your appointment.
- If you are on medication from your doctor, please continue to take it as normal.



## Patient Information

- We also ask you to leave any valuable possessions at home.
- Please arrive in the department at least **20 minutes before your appointment time** so that we have time to go through your safety questionnaire and get you appropriately changed for your examination.
- If you are late for your appointment there is a possibility that we may not be able to scan you. In these instances you will be sent an appointment for another time.
- If we are unable to find the MRI compatibility of any device which is within or attached to your body, we will not perform the scan. Your new appointment will be made once the correct information is made available to the department.

## What is an MRI?

**MRI** is a test which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body. The MRI scanner does not use X-rays. This part of the examination will be performed by a radiographer

## Preparation

- It is recommended that you attend for your examination in clothing that contains no metal fastenings, zips, or decoration. If this is not possible, a hospital gown will be provided.
- Please complete the enclosed safety questionnaire and bring it with you to your appointment.
- Please do not eat or drink anything for at least 4 hours before your appointment if you are having an MRI scan for your liver or MRCP.
- You may ask for or bring a drink with you to have after the scan.

## Risks of MRI

No short-term harmful effects have been found from MRI scans. The use of magnetic fields is not thought to be harmful, although long term side effects are unknown.

During the examination, we may give you a small dose of buscopan to make sure the cessation of peristalsis (muscle movement within the digestive system) whilst the scan is being performed.

## Patient Information

### Safety

**Patients aged 12 to 55 years:** Although the risk for your unborn child is minimal, you will be asked to confirm that you are not pregnant before the examination can proceed.

If you are pregnant, there are some circumstances where the clinical value of a scan outweighs any risk connected to the scan. This will be decided in conjunction with the referring clinicians and yourself.

It may not be possible for certain patients to have this examination due to the strong magnetic field produced by the MRI scanner:

- Patients who have a pacemaker, ear implants, surgical clips or any implants within their head or body should contact the MRI department using the telephone number on your appointment letter to check whether or not their scan can be performed.
- Patients who have had an accident involving metal fragments penetrating your eyes should contact the MRI department using the telephone number on your appointment letter. You will need to have a plain X-ray of your head to confirm there are no metal fragments remaining in your eyes. This must be arranged before your MRI scan can be safely performed.

### What will happen when I arrive?

- On arrival at the Radiology/ X-Ray Department, please report to the reception desk where you will be directed to the MRI department.
- If necessary, you will be asked to undress and put on a suitable gown. Please feel free to bring your own dressing gown.
- Please try to leave all of your valuables at home as you will not be permitted to take them into the scan room with you. You will be asked to remove any credit cards, valuables, and metal objects that are in your possession, and they will remain with the radiographers whilst they perform the examination
- You will also be asked to remove coloured contact lenses and hearing aids prior to the examination.
- A radiographer and radiology department assistant will go through the safety checklists with you.

## Patient Information

### During your MRI examination

- The radiographer will help you onto the MRI scanner table which will move into the open-ended MRI scanner. The radiographer operating the scanner can see you throughout the scan. It is important that you remain very still to ensure good quality images.
- The scan may take 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on the part of the body being examined.
- During the scanning, you will hear rhythmic tapping sounds which may become quite loud. This is normal. You will be given headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.
- Sometimes, even though gadolinium initially would not have been required based on the referral notes provided by your doctor, the radiographer might decide during your scan that an IV injection of gadolinium would help the radiologist to make a better diagnosis.
- If you are over the age of 65, we need to know how your kidneys are functioning before we give an injection of contrast.
- In these instances, we will check on our hospital system to find out whether an e-GFR result is available. If there is no result available, it is unlikely that your scan will be completed at that time. The appointment will therefore need to be rescheduled for after you have had the e-GFR blood test.

### After your examination

- Once the examination is complete you can get dressed and go home
- If you have any problems after the examination, please contact your GP.

### How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination once a formal report has been generated.

### Further information

If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the MRI Department using the contact details on your appointment letter

## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us to make further improvements and to recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.uhcnhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcnhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document history

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